

November 13, 2001

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE OF  
GINNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Vice Chairman of the Capital Markets Subcommittee of the Financial Services, I wanted to join in the concern expressed by the Subcommittee Chairman RICHARD BAKER about a proposal to expand the government guarantee provided by Ginnie Mae (the Government National Mortgage Association) into the conventional mortgage market.

Last week H.R. 3206, "The Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act of 2001," was introduced in the House of Representatives. While I strongly support the spirit and intent of this proposal, I am deeply concerned that the unintended consequence of the bill will be to make the American Taxpayer liable for unnecessary risk in the event of an economic downturn.

Over the past few years, under the leadership of Chairman BAKER, the Financial Services Capital Markets Subcommittee has spent considerable time examining the potential of an "implied" government guarantee of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. I am concerned, because H.R. 3206, as introduced, would expand the express government backing of Ginnie Mae into the conventional home loan market. This could place American Taxpayers at a greater risk of assuming more default risk for home mortgages.

Our housing finance system is the model of the world. Combining the conventional mortgage market, the government market of FHA and VA, and the jumbo market, the national homeownership rate is close to 68%. The housing sector is the bulwark of the economy and I am very willing to consider good public policy to help more Americans achieve the dream of home ownership. I worry, however, that H.R. 3206 is an unnecessary expansion of a federal government guarantee that inappropriately puts American Taxpayers at risk.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER  
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT  
ON H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,  
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the VA-HUD bill. My frustrations concerning NASA's international space station and its ongoing budget woes have been echoed by the independent Management and Cost Evaluation Task Force. This panel recently reported to Congress that the space station is faced with crippling cost overruns.

Congress almost got it right in 1993 when the space station survived by just one single

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

vote. We recognized then that NASA could not afford the station. In the years that followed, this behemoth has squeezed the budgets of the so-called "smaller, faster, cheaper" missions. Not since the Hubble Space Telescope repair and the Mars Pathfinder missions has the American public been rewarded by the fantastic discoveries offered by our space program.

Now the independent task force has told us that overall management of the whole program and its total costs has been inadequate. As a result of budget overruns and schedule delays, NASA must reorganize the entire space station program, redefine the scientific objectives and drastically cut spending to keep the current three-person crew financially feasible. The panel further reported that plans to complete the basic U.S. part of the station over the next 5 years with the \$8.3 billion allotted to the program are not credible.

No one has a good estimate of how much the space station will cost. GAO estimated years ago that it would cost American taxpayers more than \$100 billion to build and operate over its lifetime. Now it is clear that there will be no worthwhile scientific research to show for it. The station's eight original scientific research objectives are gone along with the crew return vehicle, which might have allowed an adequate number of crew members to conduct research.

Regardless, the station is now limited to a crew of only three—the number of astronauts that can fit inside a Russian Soyuz re-entry vehicle. That is why Europe, Japan, Canada and other international partners will not be able to conduct research. Instead, they will spend their time simply preserving and keeping in orbit a behemoth that can't afford the manpower to yield any new meaningful science.

I am also concerned that this bill comes up short on critically important housing programs that serve this country's most vulnerable citizens and families. Many accounts within the Department of Housing and Urban Development are simply zeroed out under this legislation. For example, the Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant program has been eliminated. Funding for empowerment zones is cut by 78 percent, public housing modernization by 5 percent, and community development block grants by 2 percent.

Mr. Speaker, additional cuts to distressed public housing revitalization and fair housing and equal opportunity activities will not help alleviate the shortage of adequate housing in America's inner cities and rural areas. I cannot support efforts to cut off poor and rural families from finding decent housing in these areas.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM  
McFARLANE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) McFarlane for receiving the 2000 Agriculturist of the Year

Award. The award is given by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce to an individual who exemplifies leadership and integrity in California's Central Valley agricultural business community.

Bill McFarlane is a native of Fresno. He grew up on a small farm near Clovis. In 1948, McFarlane and his father formed a farming partnership and expanded their farming operations. His family currently continues to operate the farm, which has about 1,000 acres of almonds, oranges, and wheat. McFarlane and McFarlane also own a farm in Butte County on which rice is the principal crop. Their family farming operations was active for 25 years in western Fresno County, producing almonds, tomatoes, cotton, garlic, melons, and lettuce.

Bill is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Clovis Unified School District's Reagan Educational Center Agriculture Department. He also serves on the Friends of Agriculture Extension for the University of California Cooperative Extension. He is a past chairman of Blue Diamond Growers and a previous president of the Central California Almond Growers Association.

McFarlane is a past recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the Fresno County Farm Bureau and the Co-op Farmer of the Year from the Agricultural Council of California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate William McFarlane on his 2000 Agriculturist of the Year Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. McFarlane and wishing him many more years of continued success.

COMMENDING VETERANS OF  
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding veterans we are so fortunate to have in our community in Sussex County, New Jersey. On Saturday, November 10, 2001, a County Salute to all Military Veterans from Sussex County will be held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. On this day, we will honor the veterans of Sussex County and celebrate the spirit of those who have fought so bravely to preserve our tradition of democracy.

As Veterans' Day approaches, the eyes of the nation turn to the service and sacrifice of those who serve. As a nation, we owe these men and women our gratitude. I believe that the government has made solemn promises to its citizens who served in the armed forces that must be kept! I believe that Congress must make sure that this promise is not broken. By ensuring that we maintain a system of reliable, effective and compassionate benefits, this nation both keeps its promise and honors veterans.

In my 22 years in the House of Representatives, I have kept in close contact with our veterans of New Jersey. And I have learned that none of the legislation we pass in Congress can provide real assistance to veterans if our veterans do not know these benefits exist.